THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), provision has been made on Cooperation in Science and Technology between India and Brazil in subject areas such as Biotechnology for Agriculture and Human Health, Bio-informatics, Chemistry, Climate Research, Marine Science, New Materials, Mathematics, Physics, Renewable Energies, Space and Industry-Research Partnerships. The programme envisages coordination by a Joint Management Board.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Consultation process have been initiated between India and Brazil for the early establishment of the proposed Council.

Encouraging FDI in Bio-Technology

2881. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange that the country has earned through export of biotech products during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the market size of biotech products is growing very rapidly in the world; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Ministry to encourage FDI in the field of bio-technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Sir, India is exporting products developed by traditional and new biotechnology. The exported products include diagnostics, human and veterinary vaccines, toxins and bacterial products, blood products, anti-biotics, tissue culture plantlets, enzymes medicinal plant products, mushrooms, cut flowers etc. During last three years about Rs. 1074.62

crores worth of biotech products were exported by India. Major share of this export comes from products of traditional biotechnology. The global scenario on market size and biotech product range is under constant change and is increasing at a rapid speed. The Government of India encouraged FDI in the field of biotechnology and in sectors like Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; FDI up to 100% is allowed. For speedy implementation of approved FDI projects in all sectors including biotechnology, Government of India has constituted Fast Track Committees (FTC) at Administrative Ministry level under Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Hosting Afro-Asian Games

2882. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 378, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 2001, and state:

(a) the budgetary estimates for upgrading the infrastructure and on hospitality to the participating contingents for the Afro-Asian Games;

(b) whether it is a fact that expenditure on to and fro air tickets for the participants is to be borne by Government;

(c) if so, whether it is a deviation from the general practice of bearing travel expenses by the participating country in multi-disciplinary events; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) At present the Government has made a provision of Rs. 30.00 crores for upgradation of infrastructure and purchase of equipments and Rs. 20.00 crores for the conduct of the Games.

(b) to (d) At present the Government has not accepted the request of the Indian Olympic Association for meeting the expenditure on to and fro air tickets for the participants in the Afro-Asian Games.